

The Closed-Loop Scoop

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State's Solid Waste Plan

Ecology is coordinating an effort to revise the State Solid Waste Plan, last updated in 1991. According to state law, the plan is to serve as a blueprint or guide for the future, encompassing all solid waste activities throughout the state. As a part of this effort, we have been hosting four series of Round Table meetings around the state between March and June to gather ideas and input about issues and strategies to address in the State Solid Waste Plan. We have now completed three of the four meetings in each region (Seattle, Spokane, Wenatchee, and Vancouver), or 12 of the 16 total meetings.

The fourth and final meeting in each area will be held as follows:

Stay TUNED!

Information about the Round Table meetings (including driving directions) can be found on the State Solid Waste Plan website. Also, Ecology will be posting project updates on the website in the future. The site address is:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/swplan/>.

Monday, June 4, Spokane, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 5, Wenatchee, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday, June 11, Vancouver, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 12, Seattle, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ecology is encouraged by the participation in the Round Table meetings. Eighty-seven people came to the first round, and 92 attended the second round. Sixty-three people attended the third round. People from local government, the solid waste industry, environmental organizations, business, and community and civic groups have been attending.

By involving people very early in the process we are getting valuable ideas and we are using their input to determine how best to move forward.

Prior to the Round Table meetings, ten issue papers were developed with the help of over sixty participants from state and local government and from the not-for-profit and private sectors. These background documents and a draft vision statement, also developed based on input from various stakeholders, served as a starting point for meeting participants to discuss issues important to the State Plan revision. During the second round of meetings, participants articulated interim milestones or goals to get to the vision, and then in the third

round of meetings they identified strategies to reach those milestones. During the upcoming and last round of meetings, we will put the finishing touches on the goals, vision, and recommendations.

Your input is very important. Even if you haven't attended before, please plan to join us for the final round of meetings in June.

After the roundtables end in June, Ecology will research some of the recommended alternatives. We hope to accomplish this tremendous task by next winter.

Potential options for action will be presented to stakeholders for review and input. Next, a draft solid waste plan will be written and finalized after public review and comment. Our hope is to begin then immediately working collaboratively with agencies and organizations to implement the actions listed in the plan.

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Outstanding Public Schools Win Awards

Students from 11 schools from across the state received awards recently from the state Department of Ecology in a ceremony that celebrated their exceptional recycling efforts. The Terry Husseman Outstanding Waste Reduction & Recycling Public School Awards were presented May 4 at the Worthington Center at St. Martin's College in Lacey. Award amounts ranged from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

The award-winning public schools were recognized for their efforts to educate students about waste prevention, waste reduction and recycling programs, as well as for actively carrying out the programs. The award categories were best waste reduction, best recycling, and outstanding waste reduction & recycling. "The commitment evident in these students and their schools makes us proud," said Cullen Stephenson, manager of Ecology's solid waste program. "Their dedication to Washington's health, beauty and future is obvious in the focus they put on recycling, reusing materials and avoiding waste generation."

The winners for the 2000-2001 school year were:

Best waste reduction (\$1,000 to each school)

Acme Elementary, Whatcom County
Eisenhower Middle School, Snohomish County
Trout Lake School, Klickitat County
Wilson Creek Junior/Senior, Grant County

Best recycling (\$1,000 to each school)

Capital High, Thurston County
Chelan Middle/High School, Chelan County
Mill A School, Skamania County
Stratton Elementary, Pend Oreille County
Sunnyside High School, Yakima County



Photo: Toppenish Middle School

Outstanding waste reduction & recycling (\$2,500 to each school)

Mt Baker Junior/Senior, Whatcom County
Toppenish Middle School, Yakima County

CONTACT: Michelle Payne, recycling award coordinator, 360-407-6129, e-mail: mdav461@ecy.wa.gov

Businesses and Government Recognized for Their WRR Efforts

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) has honored three businesses and three government entities for their efforts to reduce and recycle waste. The awards are issued each year to private industry and federal and local government agencies in Washington that make significant contributions to recycling and creative waste management. Applicants for the awards must demonstrate they have successful, innovative programs, facilities and activities.

"The programs these businesses and facilities create and carry out are a large part of Washington's journey toward reaching its waste reduction and recycling goals," said Ecology Director Tom Fitzsimmons. "Working together, we can promote both economic vitality and a healthy environment far into the future." With these awards, the Ecology Department can thank them for their dedication and hard work on reduction, reuse and responsible disposal, Fitzsimmons said.

This year, the awards were given to **A-1 Builders, Inc.**, for the best small-business program (under 100 employees); **Albertson's**, for best large-business program (more than 100 employees); **Kitsap County's Solid Waste Division**, for best large-government program (population more than 75,000); and the **U.S. Naval Air Station at Whidbey Island**, for best federal facility. The special-recognition award was given to **King County's Solid Waste Division** and to **Radiance Herbs and Massage** of Olympia for achievement in areas related to waste prevention, reduction and recycling that are not addressed by the other categories.

For more information, contact Curtis Durrant, (509) 456-6370 or e-mail cdur461@ecy.wa.gov

New Information on Solid Waste Transfer Stations Available

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently completed two new documents on municipal solid waste transfer stations (WTSs). Copies of both of these documents can be accessed electronically through EPA's web page on transfer stations: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/transfer.htm>.

The booklet, entitled "Waste Transfer Stations: Involved Citizens Make the Difference," is written to assist the general public in understanding the role and potential impacts of WTSs and to outline ways in which citizens can participate in the decisions that affect the siting, design and operation of WTSs. Hardcopies of this document can be ordered from our publications distribution center at 800-424-9346

The second document, entitled "Waste Transfer Stations: A Manual for Decision Making," is now being released in draft format for public comment. This document is intended to assist those trying to evaluate and choose protective practices for the siting, design, and operation of municipal WTSs. As such, it will be helpful to facility owners and operators; state, local and tribal environmental managers; and the public. Because WTSs have been such a controversial issue with the public and because design practices vary widely depending on size and type of community, the EPA has decided to allow time for public comment before publishing the final report. A request for comments will appear in the Federal Register shortly. The comment period will remain open for 90 days from the date of publication.

For further information, contact Steven J. Levy, Municipal and Industrial Solid Waste Division, Office of Solid Waste (MC:5306W), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460, Tel: 703-308-7267, Fax: 703-308-8686, email: levy.steve@epa.gov.

Extended Producer Responsibility: A Guidance Manual for Governments

Municipal waste has increased 22% per capita from 1980 to 1997. At the same time, the difficulty of siting new waste disposal facilities has increased. While major progress has been made to lessen the per capita generation of air and water pollution over the past decades, waste generation is still on the rise. Faced with the increase of waste, many governments have reviewed available policy options and concluded that placing the responsibility for the postconsumer phase of certain goods on producers could provide a means to relieve certain environmental pressures, arising from postconsumer waste. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach under which producers accept significant responsibility--financial and/or physical--for the treatment or disposal of postconsumer products. Assigning such responsibility could provide incentives to prevent wastes at the source, promote product design for the environment and support the achievement of public recycling and materials management goals.

This guidance manual represents one means to inform national governments about the potential benefits and costs associated with EPR. To order: <http://electrade.gfi.fr/cgi-bin/OECDBookShop.storefront/>.

Litter Update: Campaign Focuses on Enforcement

Many of you are familiar with the adage: "an ounce of prevention is worth an pound of cure." Well, Ecology is going to put that to the test as it implements the first comprehensive litter prevention campaign in Washington in over ten years.

As many of you know, Ecology has been researching the litter problem for the past two years. Despite the increased emphasis on litter cleanup, Washington roadways seem as dirty as ever. To make progress toward the goal of zero litter, we have to try to prevent litter in the first place.

In January 2001, Ecology hired Sharp Hartwig, a Seattle-based media/public relations firm, to help develop a two- to three-year marketing plan for an antilitter campaign. The consultant will also help Ecology identify potential campaign sponsors to defray the tremendous costs of media and advertising. This planning phase of the project is scheduled to continue through early summer.

It would be very difficult to design a campaign to address the many different behaviors that contribute to the litter problem. So, in this initial phase, the campaign targets roadside littering resulting from three behaviors:

1. Deliberate tossing of items from vehicles;
2. Failure to secure/cover loads; and
3. Not cleaning out the back of cars/trucks, allowing things to escape.

Over time, Ecology hopes to address other behaviors such as illegal dumping.

In March Ecology conducted five focus groups with people who admitted to littering. The goal was to learn more about their motivations, and what might convince them to stop. While several ideas emerged, a common theme was quickly identified: enforcement. "Believing I could get caught and fined," "knowing what the fines are," and "having to serve on a litter cleanup crew as punishment" were all deterrents to littering.

**Litter Related Violations
Issued By Washington State Patrol**
(2000 numbers available soon!)

Violation	1998	1999
Debris Escape	1908	1928
Lighted Debris	1155	1178
Debris Thrown	506	541
Uncovered Load	340	290
Total	3909	3937

Enforcing litter laws is tricky. While many people support the use of enforcement, studies show that few states are able to enforce littering laws effectively for two reasons: lack of personnel available for such a low priority issue and the fact that it is difficult to "catch" offenders in the act. Long-range plans involve evaluating the current system and working with law enforcement agencies to find ways to make enforcement more effective.

In the short term, the media campaign can raise awareness of enforcement and littering fines. Ecology is exploring reinstituting a litter hotline for the nonlittering public to report littering acts. An omnibus survey in King County indicated that 85% of the public would use such a hotline. Ecology is working with Washington State Patrol, Department of Transportation, and Department of Licensing to make the

hotline as effective as possible. While reported violators would not get a ticket (fines cannot be issued on hearsay), a stern letter from the State Patrol might get their attention. In addition to raising awareness, the hotline would send the message that people care enough about litter to make a call. Coupled with periods of media attention on actual enforcement, the campaign can send a strong message that littering is not tolerated in Washington.

Getting all the pieces in place and securing funding will take time. But time spent on the planning phase and securing partnerships will ultimately help sustain the campaign effort over time.

Here's What You Can Do:

- Find out if your city or county has littering ordinances in place
- If not, or to strengthen fines, write to your councilman

For More Information About Littering Laws, Reference Chapter 70.93 Revised Code of Washington, available on Ecology's website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/ecyrcw.html#title70>.

Kitsap County Offices Implement Waste Reduction Goals

Kitsap County Public Works has announced goals for their in-house waste reduction program in 2001. The program, in its second year, places increased emphasis on purchasing environmentally protective products; reducing the amount of hazardous wastes generated in County Operations; and energy, water, and other resource conservation.

Department-wide goals include reducing paper usage by making double-sided copies and printing only e-mails that are needed for documentation. Employees in all departments are requested to turn off lights when not in the office. Other department-wide goals that continue from last year include purchasing only paper made with recycled content and remanufactured toner cartridges.

Departments will continue to use *The Wa\$te Exchange*, a paperless program in which departments swap surplus office supplies such as file folders, binders, bulletin boards, and desk accessories. Last year the County departments saved over \$3,700 by exchanging items via the e-mail "*Wa\$te Exchange Group*."

Several new environmentally friendly construction goals have been identified to boost recycling and the use of building materials that are resource and energy efficient, less toxic, and made with recycled content. Kitsap County made a strong commitment to environmentally responsible construction by adopting the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED™) standards for all new County construction projects. In addition, contractors will be required to submit a recycling plan for approval on all construction, remodels, and demolitions.

Although the County Courthouse and its facilities have been recycling for 10 years, recycling of wastes will continue to increase. Aluminum can bins will be placed in the County's parks and ballparks, and Fair vendors will be required to flatten all cardboard boxes for recycle in order to reduce disposal costs. The small battery recycling program will be expanded to include more departments. Fluorescent tubes, which can no longer be accepted at Olympic View Sanitary Landfill, will be recycled.

Many departments are continuing efforts to use less paper. In April 2001, Superior Court won the Kitsap Waste Wi\$e Award for their success in reformatting forms. Superior Court staff evaluated each of the department's forms to see if they could be eliminated or consolidated, or if they could be revised to contain fewer carbonless copies. Several forms now use as many as five fewer sheets.

The Assessor's office also received the Kitsap Waste Wi\$e Award for their efforts to educate their employees about a variety of environmental topics. The Assessor's office has had two department-wide training sessions on waste reduction. Last year the department formed a committee to evaluate waste reduction needs for their operations. The department volunteered to save unwanted junk mail before requesting senders to update their mailing lists. Superior Court has also started requesting that senders remove names or update information.

In 2000, the County saved over \$159,000.00 by recycling office paper, cardboard, tin, scrap metal, concrete, asphalt, toner cartridges, and other items generated during regular operations. More detailed information may be obtained by viewing the Solid Waste Division Annual Report 2000 at <http://www.wa.gov/kitsap/>.

Technical assistance for waste reduction and recycling is available to businesses, agencies, and not-for-profit organizations by calling Kitsap County Public Works, Solid Waste Division, Vicki Bushnell, Solid Waste Technician, Telephone: (360) 337-4678 or (800) 825-4940, e-mail: vbushnell@co.kitsap.wa.us

Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education Are Now Available Online!

The National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education (NPEEE) and the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) are pleased to announce that the full texts of several publications are now available online! These publications provide "guidelines for the development of balanced, scientifically accurate, and comprehensive EE programs." The guidelines represent a broad and accepted consensus on what constitutes good EE and will help educators develop comprehensive environmental education programs that integrate across and build upon the high standards set by the core disciplines.

"The guidelines were designed with the busy teacher in mind," said NPEEE Project Director Bora Simmons. "Teaching EE can help teachers in every discipline improve student learning, and these guidelines make quality material more accessible."

To view the complete text of the above publications visit: <http://www.naaee.org/npeee/>. Ordering information for NPEEE publications is available from the web site, or can be obtained by calling the NAAEE Publication's Office at (706) 764 - 2926.

Watch Those Watts by Recycling

By now you've probably heard great tips on how to save energy. These include turning off unneeded lights, washing laundry in cold water and lowering the thermostat. But did you know you can actually save energy by recycling as well? That's right--recycling helps conserve energy. In most cases, it takes less energy, water and processing to create products from recycled materials than from raw materials. Of course, recycling also makes better use of our natural resources.

While you're at it, why not reduce the amount of garbage you produce in the first place? Reusing items and buying fewer products is an even better way to save energy (and save money, too!) Think about it: If you bring your own coffee cup to the espresso stand instead of using one of their paper cups, you save all the energy associated with producing and transporting the cup and hauling it away as garbage.

Here are some energy facts:

- It takes 95 percent less energy to produce aluminum from recycled cans than from ore. The energy saved from one recycled aluminum can will operate a television set for three hours.
- Recycling one ton of paper saves 6953 gallons of water, 463 gallons of oil, and 4077 kilowatt hours of energy.
- Recycling glass reduces energy use by up to 32%, uses 50% less water, and causes 20% less air pollution and 80% less mining waste.
- Recycling a ton of standard materials--such as glass, cans and bottles--saves an average of \$187 worth of electricity and other energy sources. That's even after accounting for the energy used to collect and transport the materials.
- Recycling saves watts--and your wallet. When you recycle, you produce less garbage. The less garbage you create, the lower your garbage bills and the more energy for all of us.

Ecology at Work on Cathode Ray Tubes

Computer and other electronic waste is becoming a major cause for concern. As computers and televisions are replaced to keep up with ever-changing technology, more and more electronic waste (some still useable) is being disposed of.

Computers are being purchased and replaced at record rates, which means that more computers are also being discarded. Similarly, it is expected that older televisions will be discarded at higher than average rates due to the coming shift to high-definition broadcasting, making analog equipment obsolete by 2006. There is a growing concern about lead and other toxic metals in computers and the cathode ray tubes (CRTs) of monitors and television sets. Color computer monitors, for example, typically contain between 4 and 8 pounds of lead in their CRTs. Lead protects viewers from harmful x-rays.

Computer monitors and televisions may be crushed when they are disposed of in solid waste landfills, and lead can leach out of the equipment. That lead, along with other metals, can potentially reach groundwater and the environment. The harmful effects of lead, especially to children, are well known.

Other toxic metals that computers often contain include chromium, cadmium and mercury. Recent test data show that monochrome ("black and white") monitors don't designate as dangerous waste for lead content but color monitors do. Color CRTs must be managed according to the requirements of the Dangerous Waste Regulations.

Ecology is evaluating the possibility of managing CRTs as "universal waste." Universal wastes are certain frequently generated dangerous wastes that can be managed appropriately under reduced regulatory requirements. Universal waste requirements give generators some relief from full regulation but still require that wastes be properly managed and sent to a "destination facility"--typically a treatment, storage, disposal, or recycling facility.

In the longer term, the top environmental priority is to find ways to keep CRTs out of the solid waste stream. Ecology is involved in a national effort to work with manufacturers on extended producer responsibility. A key element in this approach is product "take back" in which manufacturers assume responsibility for management of computers and other electronic devices at the end of their useful service. This has the dual advantage of making it easier for consumers to dispose of these devices in an environmentally responsible manner and it creates incentives for manufacturers to design products to extend their useful life, minimize pollution and maximize the potential for reuse and reclamation. The "Guide to Environmentally Friendly Computer Purchasing" at <http://www.govlink.org/nwpsc/> offers some options to consider when purchasing a new computer.

- If you need to get rid of a computer monitor or television, seek options other than disposal whenever possible.
- Check with your local county waste management program. Some counties are developing programs to help recycle computers and monitors. For example, glass from old CRTs can be melted, and then used to make new CRT screens.
- See if you can donate your computer to be reused. Check with the company that you bought your computer from to see if they have a take-back program. Most companies that do also have websites that describe their programs.

Ecology is in the early stages of developing more options for CRT management. For more information about CRTs, contact Tom Cusack at tcus461@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6755 or Chipper Hervieux at pher461@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6756.

Straw Utilization in the Pacific Northwest: Current and Future Prospects

Small grain and grass growers wondering what to do with excess residue can investigate options at a bioproducts and bioenergy workshop Thursday, June 21. The "Straw Utilization in the Pacific Northwest: Current and Future Prospects" workshop will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. in the East Auditorium of the Washington State University, Tri-Cities campus in Richland.

The workshop will feature currently available options such as straw for pressboard or export. It will also introduce technologies such as bioethanol and chemical production and electricity generation. Policy relevant to straw utilization and financing are also topics on the agenda. Speakers include growers, researchers, Congressional staff, and agency and business representatives.

The workshop is sponsored by USDA Farm Service Agency, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, USDOE Regional Biomass Energy Program, and WSU Agricultural Research Center and Cooperative Extension Energy Program.

The one-day event has a \$25 registration fee, which includes lunch. For registration information contact: Kathy Lu Szabo, WSU Pullman at (509) 335-4564. Registration forms will also be available at USDA Farm Service Agency and WSU Cooperative Extension offices.

Landmark Carpet Agreement Signed

In a major step toward national carpet recycling, the Carpet and Rug Institute, representing 92% of the industry, signed a voluntary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to take increasing levels of responsibility for recovering discarded carpet over the next 10 years. This is the first national product stewardship agreement reached through a multi-stakeholder dialogue in the U.S.



The MOU was signed with the Midwestern Workgroup on Carpet Recycling, which was spearheaded by the states of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, a couple of carpet manufacturers, and the EPA Office of Solid Waste. Its membership is now national in scope, with 40 representatives from industry (carpet and fiber manufacturers, carpet retailers and recyclers), all levels of government, and nongovernmental organizations. Members met six times last year to draft and finalize an agreement that has the support of more than 15 state governments.

The MOU establishes an independent, industry-funded, third-party organization that will be responsible for achieving the group's agreed-upon goals for carpet recovery. The organization will manage the collection and recycling process and will develop programs to meet the goals. The ultimate aim of this initiative is to eliminate landfilling and incineration of discarded carpet. The EPA estimates that 2.4 million tons of carpet and rugs were disposed of in 1998.

The next step--which begins this month and is expected to conclude by the end of August--is to reach consensus on the specific environmental outcomes and goals for the third-party organization. The group is also developing national model procurement specifications for public agencies to serve as an incentive to carpet manufacturers. Only manufacturers that participate in the third party organization will be able to bid. The parties recognize that the most desirable solution would be a private-sector recycling effort that is economically viable and self-sustaining.

Contact: Garth Hickle, garth.hickle@moea.state.mn.us, Midwest Work Group on Carpet Recycling, Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance. <http://www.moea.state.mn.us/policy/carpet/index.cfm>

Calendar of Events

16th Annual Hazardous Waste Conference

The 16th Annual Hazardous Waste Conference for Household and Small Business Programs will be held **September 4-8** at the Portland Marriott Downtown. Find more information at www.nahmma.org.

NRC's 20th Annual Congress & Exposition

The National Recycling Coalition's 20th Annual Congress & Exposition will be held from **September 30 to October 3, 2001**, in Seattle. Watch <http://www.nrc-recycle.org> for more information or contact: Rebecca Mebane, 703-683-9025 ext. 206, RebeccaM@nrc-recycle.org or Luke Miller, 703-683-9025 ext. 212, LukeM@nrc-recycle.org.

The Seventeenth International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 21 - 24, 2001. For information on exhibiting at the conference, contact: solid.waste@widener.edu.

Helpful Links

Donate used cell-phones to victims of domestic violence: <http://www.donateaphone.com>.

Choose to Reuse: <http://www.choose2reuse.org/>.

Dump and Run: <http://www.dumpandrun.org/>.

Northwest Waste Prevention Coalition: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/nwpc/reg.htm>.

Next Step...Towards a sustainable future: <http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/index.cfm>.

Resource Conservation Alliance: <http://www.rca-info.org/index.html>.

Northwest Product Stewardship Council: <http://www.govlink.org/nwpsc/home.htm>.

Waste Reduction for Food Services: <http://www.p2pays.org/food>.



WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
E C O L O G Y

Solid Waste & Financial Assistance Program

PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Read This Newsletter Online!

The Closed-Loop Scoop newsletter should not create waste. If we need to make changes to our mailing list, please contact Jim Bill at (360) 407-6125. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter via e-mail please send a message to jbil461@ecy.wa.gov with the subject line reading "Subscribe Closed-Loop Scoop."

Newsletter Editor: Michelle Payne

Contributors: Megan Warfield Curtis Durrant Shelly McClure

Copy Editor: Jim Bill

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